BANQUET SPEECH OF HWM

Excellency, Ms. Alice Tai, the Ombudsman of the Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is an honour and privilege for me to offer my gratitude to the host of the 9th Conference of the Asian Ombudsman Association.

2. Ladies and gentlemen, understanding and friendship between Hong Kong and other members of the Asian Ombudsman Association do not require any formalities to prove it. We have been the friends of all the time that is why the warmth and affection shown by our hosts to the delegates flowed from the very depths of their hearts. I do not know whether we have been able to demonstrate the same degree of affection and sentiment, but believe me, Excellency, we held the Hong Kong in the highest esteem, and have the deepest love for the people of Hong Kong.

3. Excellencies, it is my sincere belief that, though somewhat differently modelled, the Institution of Ombudsman in the member countries and regions but has the most powerful and effective tools in the form of vast jurisdiction and authority to implement the remedies and actions suggested as a result of outcome of the investigation. At the same time these institutions enjoy full cooperation from the political as well as the executive leadership of their countries and regions. This not only helps the institution to achieve enviable results, particularly in the area of the war against corruption, but also become a model for other like institutions.

4. This kind of gathering not only create an excellent opportunity in taking concrete steps towards a better use of existing and future cooperation possibilities but also strengthens close ties between our member institutions. This Conference too has provided us the opportunity of exchange of ideas and shares the vast experience each of us has gained while working in different scenario. I am sure that all of us would like to benefit from each other experience, particularly in the fight against corruption not only in public services but also in other sectors of the society. I am confident that the hard work and purposeful efforts, which we altogether exerted in the recent days in further intensifying the cooperation, will produce results in the very near future.

5. I hope that the opportunity provided by this Conference would also further strengthen the relationship between our Ombudsmen institutions. I believe that with the passage of time this cooperation may be transferred to a large canvass whereby all states and regions in Asia could also benefit from the useful experience of Ombudsmanship.

6. We are thankful to the People of Hong Kong and especially to the Ombudsman of Hong Kong who have the honour to host the 9th AOA Conference and provided an opportunity to see and learn from the people of Hong Kong, who provided enlightenment to mankind that how progress and development can be achieved while living in multifaceted society and political systems. It is there for people having open mind to learn and appreciate how civilisations move and how these are likely to affect the future of mankind.

7. In conclusion, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude once more to the Ombudsman of Hong Kong and his colleagues for the excellent organization and warm hospitality accorded to us.

8. I apologise, ladies and gentlemen, that I have taken your valuable time and kept you away from the sumptuous dinner which I am sure will be served.

9. With these few words, I once again thank you your Excellency and your colleagues on holding the 9^{h} AOA Conference successfully. I hope that cooperation among member countries will further enhance, when we will re-assemble in 2007 for the 10th Conference of the AOA.

Thank you.